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Letter dated 15 June 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a press release from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation of 8 June 2001 on the second anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) on Kosovo.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a Security Council document.

(*Signed*) S. **Lavrov**

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Annex to the letter dated 15 June 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Press Release

On the second anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) on Kosovo

During the two years that have passed since the adoption on 10 June 1999 by the United Nations Security Council of resolution 1244 (1999), the overall situation in the Yugoslav province of Kosovo has remained tense. Despite the massive international presence, an unacceptably high level of violence persists, and Albanian extremists and separatists are continuing to intimidate and force out Serbs and other groups of the non-Albanian population. As before, illegal armed bands of Albanian terrorists are in operation and are persisting in their attempts to aggravate the situation in southern Serbia and Macedonia.

The efforts by the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the international security force (KFOR) to ensure safe living conditions in the province for all the communities without exception and to achieve stability on the basis of the development of democracy and the strengthening of law and order are so far failing to bring the expected results.

Individual decisions and actions have been taken by the UNMIK leadership without proper clearing with the Yugoslav leadership; they do not fully take into account the lawful interests of the Serb and other Kosovo communities and are contrary to the key provisions of resolution 1244 (1999) confirming respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In particular, the approval by the head of UNMIK of the document on the constitutional framework for provisional self-government in Kosovo and his announcement of the holding of province-wide elections this autumn were obviously made in haste. These decisions need to be corrected, and the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, having proved in practice their democratic maturity and commitment to cooperation with the international community in implementing Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), must be drawn into active participation in the Kosovo settlement.

The Russian Federation is convinced that the Kosovo problem can be settled only on the basis of strict and full implementation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and intends to do everything possible to contribute to the achievement of this goal.

8 June 2001